

Regional Resource Stewardship Council

January 19 & 20, 2011

Questions for Discussion and Advice

1. We generally describe the NRP process. Are there areas in the process that need to be strengthened? What other opportunities for input should we consider?
 - Include analyses of technical experts (for example, a statistically significant number of water resource specialists) and other groups of experts in the weighting exercises.
 - Include what TVA is currently doing and what we will continue doing in the custodial option.
 - Communicate clearly what is not optional (compliance/mandated).
 - Clarify the proposed action in layman's terms.
 - Recommend release of draft NRP prior to public comment period of the draft EIS and extend comment period.
 - Staff to consider staggered release of the documents.
 - Consider release of program cost information in order for the public to make informed comments on options. What are our current program costs and what is required.
 - More explicit recognition of limited financial resources to manage these programs that are paid by ratepayers.
2. Are the Program Options appropriate, comprehensive, and easily understood? Are there "Flagship" ideas you have seen elsewhere that TVA should consider incorporating into the NRP?
 - The Council created and adopts the attached Guiding Principles to evaluate program prioritization and NRP process communication.
 - Given the limitations of time and information, including costs, the Council agrees with the program options developed by the staff.
 - The public input process should encourage submission of flagship idea concepts.
 - Recreation and water resources - drill down and identify successes to the public. Give justification of costs.
 - Identify programs with multiple resource benefits, i.e., clean marina benefits, water quality, and recreation.
 - Identify why certain actions are custodial and required, including more detail what actions are custodial and why that is required.
 - Data collection and database maintenance and public outreach are implementing activities, not programs.
 - Where appropriate, people should pay for what they use.

- Rename “custodial” and “flagship” to more clearly identify baseline and desired level of performance.
3. (Revise) Is the Natural Resource Economics Valuation process clear and credible?
- New Revision: How might the natural resource economics evaluation be used?
- It is inconsistent for some resource programs to have a dollar value where other programs do not, this could create bias in a decision-making process.
 - The Council recognizes that some programs can be evaluated on an economic basis while others cannot. Decision processes should be adjusted accordingly without bias.
 - Find some other way to identify ambiguous benefits.
 - The Council is concerned about the broad methodologies and assumptions used in making the economic evaluations.
 - Concerned that it is inappropriate to ask this group this question: there are peer reviews to serve that purpose. Council reworded this question.
 - The evaluation study needs to be kept in context with the other parts of the process.
 - The communication process should explain the role and how it is used in the decision process.
4. The Benefits Weighting Exercise provided input for a cost-benefit analysis of NRP programs. Do you agree with the overall priorities as determined by the weighting?
- Real value in the Tennessee Valley is the production of electricity and control of the river is central to that, in addition to stewardship issues. Along with that comes the responsibility to manage the river and associated shorelines in a first class manner. Invest what we need to in order to have first class facilities for the public to use.
 - All programs are important with water resource rising to the top. We should take care of what we have and manage it properly.
 - TVA needs to look closely at non-renewable resources and weigh protection of those we stand to lose forever - those things which could not be replaced or reintroduced. Identify risk of not doing this.